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Approved For Release 2002/08/07 : CIA-RDP82-00457R003300340006-9
CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

REPORT NO.

CD NO.

25X1A

COUNTRY Czechoslovakia

DATE DISTR. 26 SEPT 49

SUBJECT Conditions at the Leopoldov State Prison SEP 23 10 30 AM '49

NO. OF PAGES 1

25X1C

NO. OF ENCLS.
(LISTED BELOW)

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

25X1X

1. The Leopoldov State Prison in Slovakia contains approximately 500 political prisoners. Some three hundred of these are former members of the democratic regime who were arrested after the Communist coup d'etat. The other 200 are former Slovak Fascists who were convicted of collaboration with the Germans. The Fascists receive better treatment and more privileges than do the democratic detainees. Among the latter group are some 200 Czechoslovak general officers who have been jailed since the coup.
2. Among the more notable prisoners at Leopoldov is Jan Ursiny, former Vice Premier and head of the Slovak Democratic Party. He is in relatively good health and spirits and is able to receive food parcels from outside. He shares Cell No. 1 on the right-hand side of the ground floor of the so-called Old Solitary Confinement wing with two former Democratic deputies, Staska and Kempny. Ursiny works as a gardener in the prison compound.
3. The former Minister of the Interior of the Slovak Fascist government and his colleague, Tido Gaspar, the former Fascist Minister of Information, are not obliged to work at the prison and are granted a number of exceptional privileges. The Fascist inmates pin their hopes for eventual release on the influence of Durcansky, the former Slovak Fascist Foreign Secretary, who has been residing in Argentina since 1945.
4. The Leopoldov prisoners receive all the latest London BBC news from workers from the Tatra furniture factory which is located within the walls of the prison and employs some free citizens as well as convicts.

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Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 6
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Auth: IDA Memo 11/1/77
Date: 16 MAY 1978 By:

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